<EMPTY>

Solar energy seems new to many people. This is not true. Solar energy was first created many years ago. It was created by a man named Auguste Mouchout. He created this type of energy in the late 1800’s. Today, we know that solar energy is something that is undergoing a great deal of research, as more of our resources dwindle.

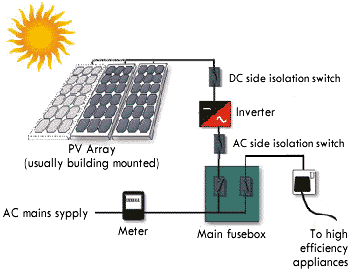
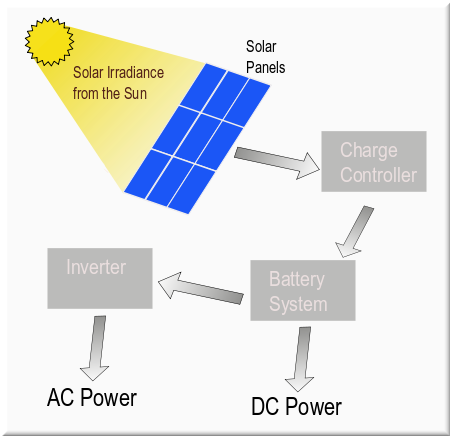
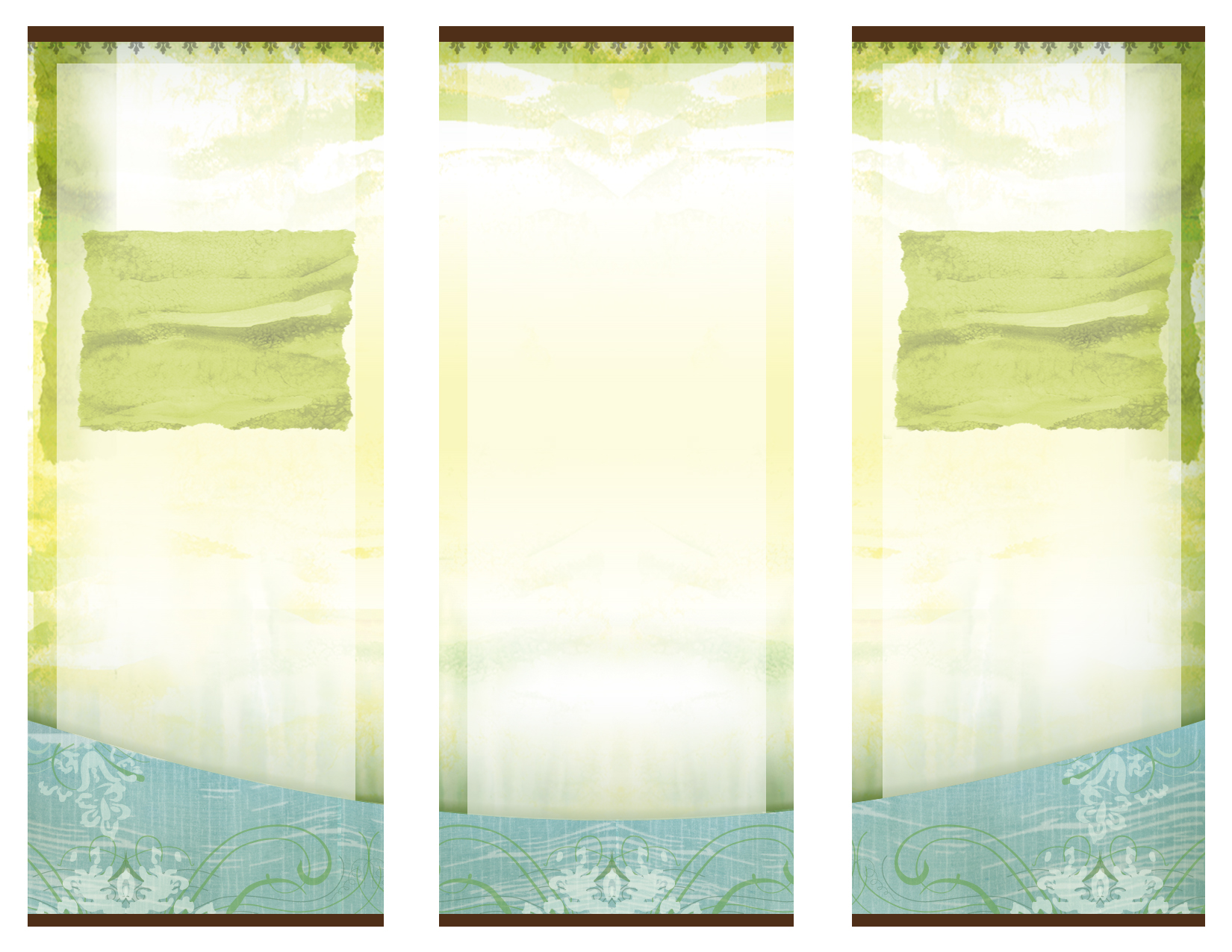
Advantages-

* Power source from the sun is free.
* The production of solar energy produces no pollution.
* This system can last from thirty to forty years.
* In thirty-five states, solar energy can be fed back to the utilities to eliminate the need for a storage system as well as eliminating and reducing your electric bills.
* Most systems have a full warranty for twenty to thirty years or more.

Disadvantages-

* Large solar energy systems, at a minimum, can cost $15,000 but are more likely to be $25,000 or $35,000.
* Once you install the solar panels, you can expect next to nothing on the system during the 40- year life span.

By: Melanie Ward and Samantha Valentino

**1.**[**http://www.makingsolarpanelsfromscratch.com/solar-power-plants/**](http://www.makingsolarpanelsfromscratch.com/solar-power-plants/%20)

**2.**[**http://www.powersourcesolar.com/5151/index.html**](http://www.powersourcesolar.com/5151/index.html%20)

**3.**[**http://solar-investment.us/solar-energy-panels-are-really-efficient/**](http://solar-investment.us/solar-energy-panels-are-really-efficient/%20)

**4.**[**http://www.ecowho.com/articles/32/Solar\_Power\_\_the\_facts\_about\_setting\_up\_Solar\_Power.html**](http://www.ecowho.com/articles/32/Solar_Power__the_facts_about_setting_up_Solar_Power.html%20)

**5.**[**http://www.about-solarenergy.com/**](http://www.about-solarenergy.com/)

Solar energy generates baht power and heat. Solar energy comes from the sun and is used to make oxygen and food. It is a renewable resource and can be used to make fuel since our fuel supplies are very low, meaning we are running out of fuel supplies. It can also be used to generate thermal power to heat and transfer it to water for space heating in many buildings. Solar energy warms our bodies and it saves our environment.

First, solar rays hit a solar collector and heat water. Next, the water turns into steam and the steam turns the turbine. The turbine then turns the generator and the generator produces electricity.

After caption